C L A I M S

1. Process for the production of a pipeline-transportable crude oil from a bitumen feed, comprising;
(1) dividing the bitumen feed into two fractions, the first fraction comprising between 20 and 80 wt% of the feed, the second fraction comprising between 80 and 20 wt% of the total feed, (the two fraction together forming 100 wt % of the feed),
(2) distillation of the first fraction obtained in step (1) (preferably under vacuum) into a light fraction boiling below 380 °C (preferably the 450- °C fraction, more preferably the 510- °C fraction) and a residual fraction,
(3) thermal cracking (of at least part of, preferably all of,) the residual fraction obtained in the distillation process described in step (2),
(4) distillation of the product obtained in step (3) into one or more light fraction (boiling below 350 °C), optionally one or more intermediate fractions (boiling between 350 and 510 °C) and a heavy fraction (boiling above at least 350 °C),
(5) combining the second fraction obtained in step (1), the light fraction obtained in step (2) and the light fraction(s) obtained in step (4) to obtain a pipeline-transportable crude oil, and
(6) using heavy fraction obtained in step (4) for the generation of power and/or heat.

2. Process according to claim 1, in which the bitumen feed in step (1) is divided into two fractions, the first

fraction comprising between 40 and 60 wt% of the feed and the second fraction comprising between 60 and 40 wt% of the total feed, (the two fraction together forming 100 wt % of the feed).

3. Process according to claim 1 or 2, in which the thermal cracking is carried out in a soaker vessel.

4. Process according to any of claims 1 to 3, in which the thermally cracked product is split by distillation into a light fraction (boiling below 350 °C), an intermediate fraction (boiling between 350 and 510 °C) and a heavy fraction (boiling above 510 °C).

5. Process according to claim 4, in which (at least part of, preferably all) the intermediate fraction is also added to the pipeline-transportable crude oil of step (5).

6. Process according to claim 4, in which the intermediate fraction is thermally cracked, followed by distillation in a light product and a heavy product, the light product being added to the pipeline-transportable crude oil mentioned in step (5), and the heavy fraction preferably used in the generation of power and/or heat as described in step (6).

7. Process as described in claim 6, in which the thermal cracking is carried out at a temperature between 450 and 520 °C and a pressure between 5 and 50 bara.

8. Process as described in any of claims 1 to 7, in which the thermal cracking of step 3 is carried out at a temperature between 420 and 500 °C and a pressure between 2 and 20 bara.

9. Pumpable syncrude obtainable by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 8.